

Application No.: 10/502,427

Docket No.: 7206-102

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claim 1 has been amended to describe the valve in a manner that is novel and unobvious over the prior art. Claims 2, 3, 4, 8 and 16 have been canceled, claim 5 has been made dependent on claim 4, claim 6 dependent on claim 1 or 5, and claims 10, 11, and 14 dependent on claim 1, curing multiple dependency..

The amended claims cover embodiments in which the spring element has a form of a spring tongue arranged at the inside (can side) of the valve disk. At the same time, the valve disk has a tubular extension designed to function as a guidance for the closure part. Conventional valves for discharging foaming agents comprise a tubular stem for foam expulsion and a valve body functioning as a guidance. The valve body itself is mechanically attached to the valve disk which itself serves mostly mounting purposes. In particular, the valve disk does not contribute to the guidance of the valve stem.

The present invention provides a tubular extension of the valve stem which allows for better guidance and better sealing. At the same time, the sealing element is designed to interact with a sealing face at the inner surface (can side surface) of the valve disk. An elastic element arranged at the valve disk provides the sealing effect, when compressed between the rigid valve disk and the non-deformable sealing element. The pressure necessary for keeping the valve closed is provided by a spring tongue at the bottom end of the valve which secured the inside of the valve disk. Spring tongues have the advantage that they do not block when polymerized foaming material accumulates thereon, as helical springs frequently do.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 6/1, 6/5, and 7 – 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 2,799,514 to Keibel (Keibel) is respectfully traversed. Keibel describes a conventional valve with an outer helical spring. There is no tubular extension of the valve disk functioning as a guidance for the closure part. Rather, the closure part is maintained in its upright position by a spring which is secured to a protruding part of the valve disk at its bottom side and to a knob of the closure element at its top side. Sealing and guiding mechanisms are entirely different from

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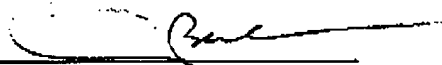
the present valve.

The rejection of claims 1, 5, 6/1, and 7 – 9 under 35.U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 23,249,261 to Benediktson (Benediktson) is respectfully traversed. Benediktsson shows a valve that is activated by tilting the stem. In order to provide the necessary flexibility of the stem, the valve body and stem are arranged at the outside of the valve disk. There is no tubular extension and no sealing face at the valve disk, as required with the present invention.

Applicant believes the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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